

Spring 2009

Reflections



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Spring 2009

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

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On the cover: Eleanora, left, and Adelaide Ambrose, two sisters from Newton, made names for themselves in New York in the 1920s.

Reflections

Welcome

The Spring issue of *Reflections* reports news of a generous gift from the Richard A. Mermis, Jr., estate and support from the Partners of First Territorial Capitol, along with featured highlights from our collections. We appreciate the ongoing support of individuals and businesses on behalf of Kansas history!



Spring at the Kansas Museum of History means a steady increase in school tours. The parking lot is frequently filled with yellow buses and the lobby with eager students. Judy Miller is one of 11 visitor service representatives who work at the admission desk, greeting these school groups and guiding visitors to the galleries.

Judy joined the Historical Society 11 years ago after serving earlier as a high school English teacher, and more recently as a bookkeeper for a family business. She joined the museum because she wanted

more interaction with people and hoped to gain from the experience.

"I've learned a lot about Kansas history," Judy said. "When I'd come home, my son used to ask, 'What did you learn today?'"

Over the years she has welcomed thousands of school children, foreign exchange students, and people from Kansas and around the world. Judy enjoys the opportunity to hear positive comments about the visitor experience.

"People who have never been to Kansas will come and say, 'This is the best museum I've ever been in,'" Judy said. "We get to sit at the desk and say, 'Yes.'"

Judy enjoys her role on the front line, even during the busy months, and especially the camaraderie she shares with the other visitor service representatives. "We are the face of the Historical Society and that's wonderful," Judy said. "Our team is great. They are all people you would choose to be your friends."

Booth's Assassin

Thomas P. Corbett was born in England in 1832 and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of seven. Living in Troy, New York, he pursued a business as a hatter. Corbett later moved to Danbury, Connecticut. He married, but his wife died in childbirth.

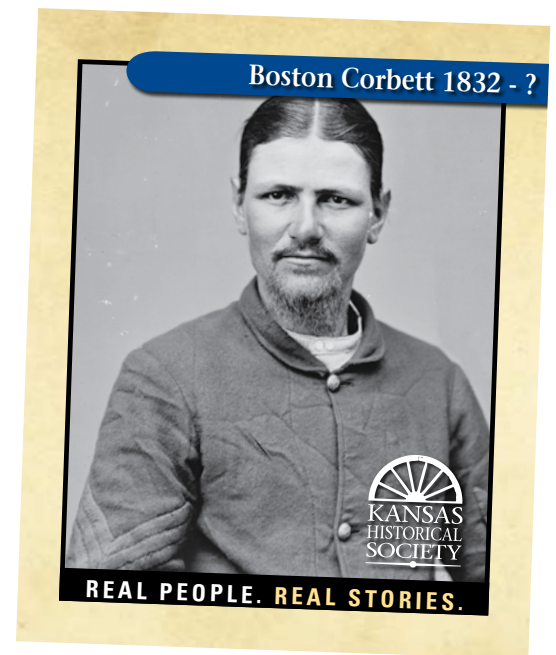
Corbett was in Boston when he happened upon a church revival and experienced a deep religious conversion. It was there that he changed his first name to Boston in acknowledgement of his rebirth.

With the onset of the Civil War, Corbett volunteered for the Union Army. On the morning of April 15, 1865, news that President Abraham Lincoln had been shot the night before reached Corbett and his fellow soldiers in Virginia. The president was still alive at the time, but not expected to recover. Corbett volunteered to help hunt down the perpetrators.

"We advanced down to the Potomac River," he later recalled, "when near the river we saw the flag at half mast on one of the forts and we knew our president was dead."

On April 26, 1865, Corbett's detachment reached Garrett Farm near Bowling Green, Virginia. The assassin, John Wilkes Booth, and an accomplice were said to be hiding in a tobacco barn. "A surrender was demanded and refused," Corbett wrote, "Booth declaring he would not be taken alive."

Corbett approached a gap in the wall, saw Booth, and shot him ...
he [Corbett] wrote that it "was the day on which God avenged Abraham Lincoln's death."



Orders were given to drive the men out with fire and take them alive. Accomplice David Herold surrendered, but Booth remained in the barn. Corbett approached a gap in the wall, saw Booth, and shot him. He wrote that it "was the day on which God avenged Abraham Lincoln's death."

Corbett expected to be hailed as a hero, but was arrested for disobeying orders. He was released and returned to Boston, but was never able to go back to his pre-war way of life. Corbett came to Kansas in 1878. Living in a dugout near Concordia, neighbors said he kept to himself and greeted visitors with a rifle in hand. He avoided talking about the events that took place at Garrett Farm.

In 1887 Corbett was given the position of assistant doorkeeper for the Kansas House of Representatives in Topeka. He was proud of his position and took it seriously, wearing his army holster and pistol on the job. During a session of the legislature, Corbett overheard a comment he considered blasphemous. Outraged, he brandished his pistol, clearing the room.

Corbett was arrested, declared insane, and committed to the state hospital in Topeka. In May 1888, while taking a walk on the grounds with other patients, Corbett saw a horse hitched near the entrance and used it to make his escape. He rode south to Neodesha, stayed with a friend for a couple days, then said he was leaving for Mexico.

A few years later a man claiming to be Corbett surfaced, trying to collect his pension. He was found to be an impostor. No further official record of Corbett exists.

From Newton to New York: The Ambrose Sisters

Two sisters left their Newton, Kansas, home in the early 1920s to find opportunities in New York City. They beat the odds to find success – one as a publisher, the other as a dancer. The sisters enjoyed celebrity status in 1920s and 1930s New York in a world far from their Harvey County roots.



Sisters Eleanora, left, and Adelaide Ambrose in 1920s New York.

Addie Minta Puckett, born in Sedgwick in 1887, moved to Kansas City around 1908 and eventually on to New York in pursuit of an acting career. She soon discovered that her chance of success lay outside the theater. She found luck investing in the stock market. With her gains, she invested in real estate, buying three large apartment houses in New York and rental properties in Kansas. In spring 1927 she established a publishing firm on Fifth Avenue under the name of Adelaide Ambrose, which drew the attention of society magazines.

Adelaide published several titles, including, *Kinks*, by an anonymous writer, which was so popular that she published three editions. An October 1927 *Topeka Daily Capital* article reported that “Between now and next spring Miss Ambrose plans to bring out several new fiction and non-fiction works.” Her second book, *Concerto*, was written by English author Elsie Pain. The *Daily Capital* article claimed that until Ambrose “invaded the book publishing industry in New York last spring, no woman had ever dreamed of turning the trick, much less putting it across.”

“When I decided to become a book publisher and told some of my friends about my plans they thought I was a bit wild.” Ambrose said in an October 1927 article in *National Magazine*. “But I believe – and my own experience bears this out – that brains and money have a market value.”

While novels brought media attention, the firm thrived for a time publishing technical books and leaflets. Adelaide eventually closed the publishing firm in 1931 and continued to live in New York where she managed her investments.

As a Newton High School student, Mary Eleanor Puckett dreamed of becoming a dancer. Born in Newton in 1901, she followed her sister to New York City shortly after graduation. Taking the stage name of Eleanora Ambrose, she studied dance in anticipation of a career. A March 1927 *Kansas City Post* article credited “Adelaide’s finances and influences that made it possible for her talented sister, Eleanora, to study under the best dancing instructors in New York City.” In 1925 Eleanora met Maurice Mouvet, an internationally famous cabaret dancer. Eleanora agreed to marry Mouvet and become his fifth dancing partner, despite the protest of Adelaide who had hopes of a more prestigious dancing career for her sister.

Maurice and Eleanora traveled to Lausanne, Switzerland, to work out dance routines. Practicing daily for more than a month, the dance team returned to Paris for an informal wedding in the magistrate’s office. Nuptial congratulations poured in from around the world including telegrams from Irving Berlin and Maurice Chevalier.

The couple opened their Paris dance engagement at the

Maurice and Eleanora Club in April 1926. After a successful run, they returned to New York. Maurice, who had been diagnosed with tuberculosis, became quite ill and the Mouvets returned to Switzerland. He died there with Eleanora at his side in May 1927.

Eleanora returned to her hometown as a celebrity in July 1927 to participate in the dedication of the Newton airport. For a short time she resumed her dance career, partnering with one of Maurice's protégés, and dancing in several Broadway shows. She gave up her career when she married Sam Katz, who operated Publix Theatres, in 1929. They were divorced and she married Donald Rainer in 1934 and moved to California. When this marriage ended in 1948, Eleanora moved back to New York.

After returning home to Newton in 1971, Eleanora died in 1988. Adelaide returned to Newton in 1961 where she died in 1967. The two sisters ended their lives quietly with no local recognition of their once celebrity status.

Photographs of Eleanora Ambrose and Maurice Mouvet appeared in New York society magazines.



VISIT | WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE HOUSE

While Adelaide and Eleanora were making names in New York, William Allen White was making news in Kansas. His editorials from hometown America and his run for governor brought national attention to the state. 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday (March through November) in Emporia.

SEARCH | STATE ARCHIVES & LIBRARY

The story of the Ambrose sisters is told through a large collection of materials donated by their nephew, Robert Puckett. These magazine articles, newspaper clippings, and photographs are among the many resources at the State Archives & Library, open to the public 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday in Topeka.



BROWSE | KSHS.ORG

Dresses from the party decade of the 1920s are featured in an online exhibit, *All That Glitters: Dressing Up & Stepping Out*. While not the Ambrose sisters' frocks, these dresses are typical of those worn during this decade.
kshs.org/exhibits/partydresses



Mermis Donation Establishes Endowment for Cottonwood Ranch

Richard A. Mermis, Jr., delved into his family's history and uncovered a connection to gardening that would spur one of the largest gifts to the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.

Mermis, who grew up in Hays, died in 2006. He had served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and worked for more than 30 years in retail. Mermis is the grandson of "Little" Tom and Elizabeth Mosier Pratt.

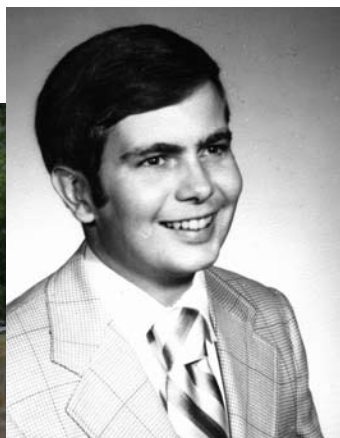
Tom Pratt moved from Yorkshire, England, to join his brother, John Fenton, and their father, Abraham, in Sheridan County in 1889. The brothers built a two-room house that became the centerpiece for Cottonwood Ranch.

Tom loved gardening and growing houseplants. He and Fenton grew apples, apricots, cherries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, and grapes. They planted a row of cottonwood trees to help protect the beloved fruit trees, shrubs, and vines. Elizabeth Mosier attended a housewarming at the Pratt ranch and admired Tom's houseplants. A romance soon developed between Tom and Elizabeth and they were married. The Pratt house featured a rock garden, lily pool, fireplace, and rock collection. Mermis said his grandparents always loved flowers. "Their home and all its surroundings reflected care, attention, and enjoyment," Mermis said. "Within that home one always found a hearty welcome."

The Pratts enjoyed donating flowers for weddings and receptions.

Inspired by the story of his grandparents' love of gardening, Mermis provided a bequest of \$850,000 that would be used for an endowment for landscaping by Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site. Mermis' lasting gift will provide funding for landscaping and maintenance in perpetuity. The endowment will boost the Kansas Historical Society's ability to meet its mission to collect, preserve, and educate Kansans about their past.

A planned gift such as that of Richard Mermis offers donors an opportunity to leave a legacy of support for our state's history. An appropriately planned charitable gift to the private foundation, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., not only helps care for the heritage of Kansas, but can provide significant estate planning rewards, as well. Those considering planned giving to the Kansas Historical Society should contact Vicky Henley, 785-272-8681, ext. 201, for details.



The late Richard A. Mermis, Jr., provided a bequest for Cottonwood Ranch.



Shawnee Indian Mission

In 1839 Methodist minister Thomas Johnson and his wife, Sarah, established Shawnee Indian Mission as a manual training school for boys and girls from the Shawnee, Delaware, and other Indian nations.

The location was chosen because it was where the Santa Fe Trail passed through Shawnee Indian lands. At the height of its activity, the mission included 16 buildings (three of which still stand) occupying over 2,000 acres, with an enrollment of more than 200 students between the ages of five and 23.

When Kansas Territory was established in 1854, Territorial Governor Andrew Reader had his offices at the mission. The first territorial legislature met at the site and passed the so-called "bogus laws" in an attempt to allow slavery in Kansas.



The mission was closed in 1862 and was acquired by the state of Kansas in 1927.

Today the site tells the story of American settlement in the West and how it meant a challenge to a way of life for countless American Indians. A video and newly designed interactive exhibits help visitors make a personal connection to this crossroads of cultures.



Visit the site!

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site
3403 West 53rd • Fairway (Kansas City area)
913-262-0867 • kshs.org/places/shawnee

Admission: \$3 adults, \$2 seniors and students; members of KSHS, Inc., current military, and children five and under admitted free

Visitor hours (subject to change):

March - November • 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday

December - February • 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday - Saturday



The Promotion of the Promised Land

John Summer and his family lived near the African American community of Dunlap in Morris County. Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, inset, considered himself the Moses of the African American exodus to Kansas.

In 1860 there were 625 African Americans living in Kansas. Twenty years later, that number had grown to over 43,000. This population boom was due, in part, to the efforts of promoters who painted Kansas as a land of plenty where African Americans could find economic prosperity.

After the Civil War, formerly enslaved African Americans had to come to terms with being a free people with little or no resources. The cost of land in the South was too expensive for most, making it difficult for them to farm. Politically, social tensions remained long after the war and the Ku Klux Klan's violent intimidation of African Americans made staying in the South not only difficult, but dangerous.

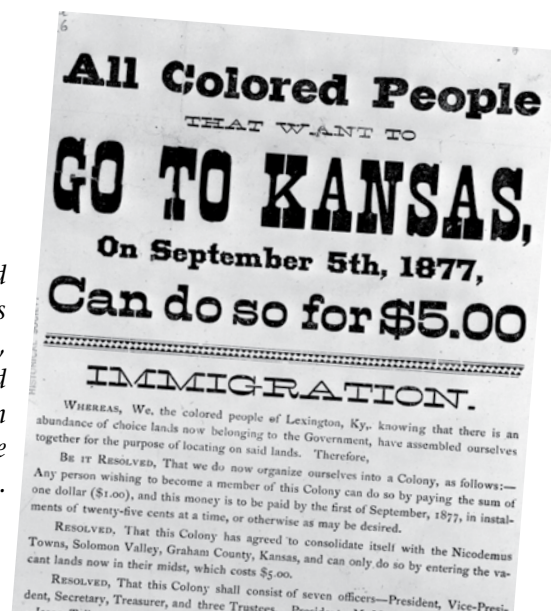
One former slave, Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, believed African Americans could not prosper if they stayed in the South. He felt strongly that they had to move to northern states to make a fresh start.

With its historic association with John Brown and opportunities for land ownership, Kansas appealed to Singleton. In the 1870s, after investigating the viability of African American settlements in Kansas, he began promoting the state as a sort of "Promised Land." Over the next few years he helped organize groups of immigrants,

relocating them in African American colonies in Kansas. Although they were not wealthy, these people had some resources and were hopeful that they could find opportunities for themselves and their children.

Promotional posters and handbills created by Singleton and others touted "Sunny Kansas" as "one of the finest

This poster targeted African Americans living near Lexington, Kentucky, and advertised an opportunity to migrate to Nicodemus in 1877.



countries for a poor man in the world,” with “plenty of stone and water, and wood on the streams.” One poster described, “large tracts of land, peaceful homes and firesides, undisturbed by any one.”

Northern town companies and railroads also played a part in these campaigns, and they created their own promotional materials, filled with promises of a land of plenty awaiting those who would make the trip. Railroads offered inducements, and a one-way ticket from Memphis to Topeka could be purchased for as little as \$10.

Despite modest resources and the ability to farm, many immigrants discovered life here was challenging. A poor economic climate and harsh weather conditions played a part in keeping the African American colonies in Kansas from reaching their intended potential.

A second wave of nearly 20,000 African Americans came to Kansas in 1879 and 1880. Unlike the first groups of immigrants that had resources and arrived in smaller organized groups, these “Exodusters” had no money and they arrived daily by the hundreds. The communities in which they tried to settle were already struggling economically and were not prepared for such a spike in population. The communities appealed to the state government for assistance, resulting in the creation of the Kansas Freedmen’s Relief Association in 1879. The mission of the KFRA was to collect and distribute resources for struggling African Americans in Kansas.

The 1879 migration caused congestion on the waterways and railroads, leading Congress to call for an investigation of “The Negro Exodus from the Southern States.” Singleton gave testimony, and was asked about the 7,432 people who came to Kansas under his “influence.” He testified that he had spent \$600 of his own money on promotional brochures, distributing them throughout the South. He said he put them into the hands those working on trains and boats heading back to the South whom he thought would pass them along. One senator asked if Singleton attributed the migration to the information in his brochures, to which Singleton, ever the promoter, exclaimed, “Yes sir; I am the whole cause of the Kansas immigration!”

LISTEN | KANSAS MEMORY PODCASTS

“The Exodusters” episode of the *Kansas Memory* podcast series gives an inside look at the African American exodus of the late 1870s, from promotional posters to compelling letters written by those struggling to make a life in Kansas. kshs.org/audiotours/kansasmemory/kmpodcast.htm

BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

This 1879 drawing from *Harper’s Weekly* depicts African American Exodusters in Topeka, waiting for more permanent lodging and employment. You can browse this and other Exoduster images when you visit *Kansas Memory*, the largest online collection of photographs and documents from Kansas history. kansasmemory.org



VISIT | STATE ARCHIVES & LIBRARY

Benjamin Singleton assembled a scrapbook of promotional handbills, posters, and articles about himself and the African American immigration to Kansas. He gave it to the Kansas Historical Society in 1883, fearing it would be damaged in his travels. You can browse this collection at the State Archives & Library in Topeka. kshs.org/places/state_archives



In 2011 Kansas will celebrate its statehood sesquicentennial. "Countdown to Statehood" is a series of articles depicting key events from Kansas' territorial days and related commemoration events sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society.

Countdown to Statehood: Horace Greeley *Doesn't* Address the Osawatimie Convention, May 1859



In April 1859 *New York Tribune* editor Horace Greeley announced to readers that he was traveling to Kansas.

"I shall try to look in on the first distinctively Republican Convention of the Freemen of Kansas, which meets at Osawatimie on the 18th of May..."

Greeley's antislavery paper was widely read by Kansas freestaters. Many of them were already excited about the formation of the Kansas Republican Party at the Convention and news that Greeley would be in attendance only fueled the anticipation.

Not everyone attending the convention shared Greeley's liberal views, and they opposed his being allowed to speak there. There was tension among delegates over the party's

platform and leaders feared a speech from Greeley would only deepen the conflict.

Convention president O.E. Learnard later reflected on not allowing Greeley to address the convention:

"We treated him with the courtesy due the great editor that he was, but we merely pushed him aside and held the convention in our own way."

After the new Kansas Republican Party had completed its business on May 18, the convention adjourned. Outside, nearly 1,000 people gathered around an improvised platform and for the next hour and a half, they heard Horace Greeley speak.

You can find photos and documents related to the Osawatimie Convention on kansasmemory.org.

HISTORY'S HEROES

Partners of First Territorial Capitol

For four days in 1855, First Territorial Capitol in the former town of Pawnee was host to the Kansas Territorial Legislature. Many people believe that the actions of the legislature led directly to the Civil War.

Governor Andrew Reeder picked this location, away from the proslavery influence of Missouri, where the legislature would choose a permanent seat of government, create a constitution, and decide if Kansas would be a free or slave state. The proslavery delegates banned the antislavery members and moved the government to Shawnee Mission near the Missouri border.

In 1901 the Kansas Legislature directed the Kansas Historical Society to "occupy, restore, and maintain the property," which was located on the Fort Riley post.

The Partners of First Territorial Capitol formed in 1996 to ensure the continued use of the site. They have assisted with covering operating expenses such as staffing, utilities, and lawn care.

Through monthly meetings, event planning, and fundraising, the Partners continue to provide support. They hosted the reopening in 2001, help keep the site open to the public, and offer tours by appointment. First Territorial Capitol is a popular rental facility for receptions for Fort Riley's military and civilian communities.

The site is open 1 – 5 p.m. Friday – Saturday, March through October; and by appointment November through February. Visitors can enjoy this important historical resource because of the Partners' support.



Betty Stevens

Manhattan native Betty Stevens is a relatively new member of the Kansas Historical Society, but her appreciation of the state's beauty and history stretches back to the lives of her great-great grandparents who settled in Kansas in the 1800s.

Stevens became a member in July 2008 in order to plug into the Historical Society's vast collections of genealogical and historical resources so she could lay the groundwork for research she plans to conduct about her family and early Kansas settlement.

"I am very interested in these people who were my ancestors and their experience settling in Kansas," Stevens said. "When I retire, I am going to write a historical novel and I want to research what has happened historically so I can get the fiction right."

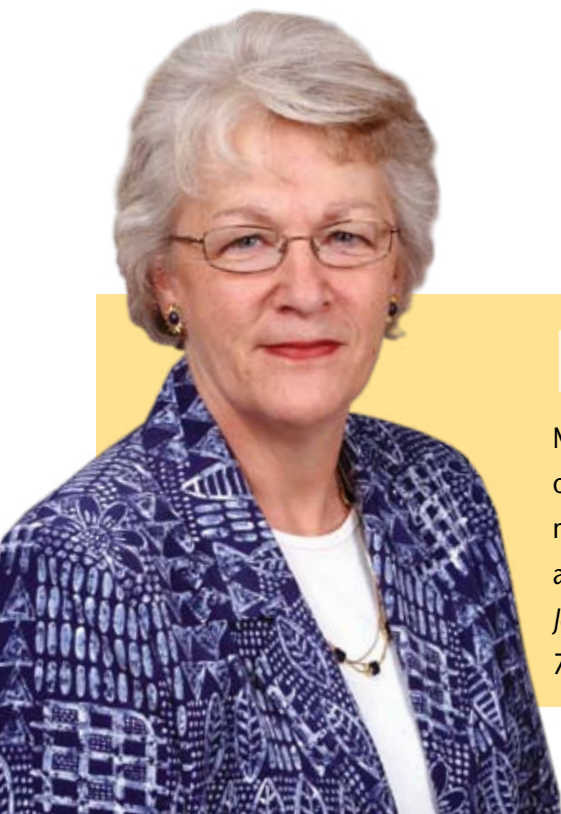
Retirement is a distant thought, however, for this busy college administrator. Born in Manhattan, Stevens came back to her hometown to take the post of Kansas State University associate dean of continuing education seven years ago.

The thriving continuing education division has seen double-digit growth in its online class enrollment for years, Stevens said. The dynamic program has grown to include more than 40 degree and certificate programs.

Stevens is leading the program's expansion to include professional certification programs, especially in the area of food science and food safety certifications critical to programs at KSU, which is home to the International Food Safety Network and the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center. "There are a number of growing certifications that are intended to help protect the world food supply," Stevens said.

While tracking down the stories of her pioneer relatives, Stevens made another connection with the Historical Society. She began researching the history of her great grandfather's role in founding the city of Eudora on land purchased from the Shawnee, and she visited the Historical Society's Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site. There she made a personal connection with someone from Eudora who knew her ancestors' descendants.

Stevens plans to utilize the archives and library collections of the Historical Society as she pursues her passion for writing historical fiction. She feels the organization's role of providing accurate information about communities throughout the state is critical. "I think the Kansas Historical Society has played and will continue to play a big part in this," Stevens said.



BECOME A MEMBER

Membership support enables the Historical Society's programs to continue. The cost of membership remains only \$40 annually. Members receive free admission to the museum and all state historic sites, a discount at KSHS stores and on online purchases, as well as quarterly issues of *Reflections* and the award-winning *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. More information available at kshs.org/joinkshs, by calling 785-272-8681, ext. 209; or membership@kshs.org.

Piecing Together the Story: Tobias Archeological Site

A community of thousands of people lived in central Kansas between 1400 and 1700 AD. They farmed and raised families on the rolling prairie. Their villages were located amid fertile plains, well suited to farming. Here they dug cache pits to store food supplies and grew maize, beans, and squash and gathered walnuts, hickory nuts, and grapes. The materials they left behind now give us clues about their lives.

We now know that these early people were ancestors of the Wichita. They lived in beehive-shaped grass lodges between 25 and 40 feet in diameter. Low mounds mark the oval-shaped footprints of 19 of these dwellings at the Tobias Archeological Site.

Because the dwellings were made of lightweight materials, little survives among the remains. Postholes indicate where structural poles were set. The poles were pulled together and lashed at the top.

Inside the grass lodges were open spaces that could accommodate large family groups. Special lodges were arbors for sleeping during hot summer months, for drying corn, or for sweat lodge rituals.



Their pottery was utilitarian only a few designs on the handles and lips. Limestone pieces were used for grinding and processing grains. Other everyday items included projectile points, stone and digging tools, and picks and awls of bone.

There is evidence that they traded with others far away. Items found were distinctive red, grey, and white chert from the panhandle of Texas; white chert from the Ozarks area; and items from the Southwest including pottery, obsidian, and pieces of turquoise.

The written history of the Wichita begins when Spanish explorers first documented the villages as they searched for the gold city of Quivira. Two captive Plains Indians guided Francisco Vázquez de Coronado and his men to the area on June 29, 1541. Over the course of five days, the expedition passed through seven populated areas and the men described what they saw.

The houses are round, without a wall, and they have one story like a loft, under the roof, where they sleep and keep their belongings. The roofs are of straw. There are other thickly settled provinces around it containing large numbers of men.

– The Journey of Coronado

Above, the Smithsonian Institution conducts an investigation at the Tobias site in 1965.

Left, the ancestors of the Wichita lived in dwellings similar to this lodge in Anadarko, Oklahoma, circa 1880.



Juan de Oñate, who led an expedition in 1601, left behind more information about what came to be known as the Quivira culture. The expedition's journals documented villages of up to nine miles in length, with 1,200 to 1,700 houses in the area. Archeological remains found at the site – including Spanish swords – provided evidence of European presence.

With the movement of other native peoples onto the plains, the Wichita abandoned their villages and migrated to the south. In 1719 many were living in what is now Oklahoma. In the latter part of the 18th century many Wichita were living in what is Texas near the Red and Brazos rivers. They sought refuge during the Civil War in Kansas and were later assigned reservation land in Oklahoma.

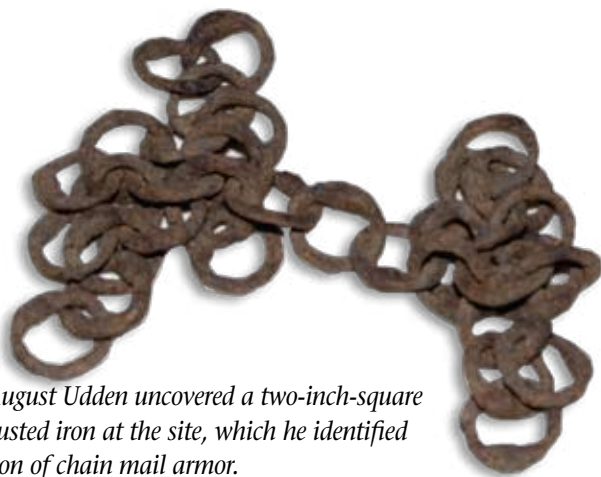
Johann August Udden, of Bethany College in Lindsborg, studied the village site from 1881 – 1888. His main discovery was a piece of chain mail buried about six inches below the surface.

The metal had suffered much from oxidation and the spaces between the rings were filled with rust so thick that the whole specimen was almost a solid mass.

— Johann Udden

In 1940 archeologist Waldo Wedel studied the area for the Smithsonian Institution. Wedel documented the “council circle,” a plaza at the center of village, which led to the idea that the site was oriented toward the solstice sunrise.

The Tobias site, named for landowner Cyrus Tobias, along with the adjacent C. F. and Paul Thompson site, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. The site, acquired by the state of Kansas in 1980 and administered by the Kansas Historical Society, is not open to the public so that it can continue to be preserved for future generations to learn more about these Wichita ancestors.



Johann August Udden uncovered a two-inch-square piece of rusted iron at the site, which he identified as a section of chain mail armor.

TIMELINE

- 1450 - 1700** Wichita ancestors live in Rice County area
- 1541** Coronado Expedition visits area
- 1650 - 1700** Wichita ancestors move to north central Oklahoma

VISIT | PAWNEE INDIAN MUSEUM

The Wichita are related to the people of the Pawnee Nation, who lived in earth lodges in what is today northern Kansas. This museum surrounds the excavated floor of a large 1820s Pawnee earth lodge. Walk the perimeter of the lodge and view the rare sacred bundle that hangs above the altar.

kshs.org/places/pawneeindian



VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Wichita people from historic times lived in a beehive shaped house, believed to be similar to that of their ancestors. A half-size scale replica of a Wichita grass lodge is featured in the museum's main gallery. kshs.org/exhibits/maingallery



Happening at KSHS

Lincoln in Kansas exhibit, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

A late addition to the *Lincoln in Kansas* exhibit has arrived and will be on display through July 26, 2009. A ball gown worn to Lincoln's second inaugural ball has returned after being on loan to the Smithsonian Institution. The gown was worn by Margaret Usher, wife of John Palmer Usher, Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior. kshs.org/exhibits/current/lincoln



Captured in Black & White: The Cowboys, Combines, and Small Towns of Frontier Photographer F.M. Steele, temporary exhibit, State Archives & Library Gallery, Topeka

This exhibit celebrates the photography of Francis Marion Steele, who in 1890 arrived in Dodge City, outfitted a buggy with a portable studio, and set out across the prairie to photograph cowboys at work. As the open range gave way to wheat fields, Steele's camera encompassed the changes that were occurring in High Plains life. This exhibit will open with a public program on April 18 and will run through May 30, 2009.

Available now at the Museum Store!

Celebrate the Lincoln and Kansas connection when you visit the Museum Store. Gift items include books for children and history buffs, toys, souvenirs, and collectibles.

kshs.org/store



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through July 26, 2009

Lincoln in Kansas

Exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

April 18 – May 30, 2009

Captured in Black & White: The Cowboys, Combines, and Small Towns of Frontier Photographer F.M. Steele

Exhibit at the Kansas Historical Society's State Archives & Library Gallery, Topeka

April 19, 2009

Spring Lecture – The Photography of William Henry Jackson

Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

April 25, 2009

Railroad Day

John Brown Museum State Historic Site, Osawatomie

April 24-25, May 1-2, 2009

Quilt Show

Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

May 1-30, 2009

Sterograph Exhibit

Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

May 2-3, 2009

Annual Sheep Dog Trial

Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site, near Studley

June 12, 2009

KSHS, Inc., Spring Meeting

Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City, and Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

June 17-24, 2009

John Brown Jamboree

John Brown Museum State Historic Site, Osawatomie

June 19-20, 2009

Fort Hays Young Troopers Camp

Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

June 27-28, 2009

Territorial Days

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

Spring 2009

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

Kathleen Sebelius

Governor of Kansas

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Kansas Memory

This informal 1896 portrait shows Jake Washington (left) and Abe Burns (right) with the 90- and 110-pound catfish they caught in the Kansas River near Lawrence. Browse these and other outdoor leisure images when you visit kansasmemory.org.

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